

Seagrass or cord can be used for seating this attractive little stool; instructions for the simple process will be found on page 4.

rod about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter long enough to go across the frame; a special long needle. The second method requires only a shuttle on which to wind the seagrass or cord.

PREPARING THE STOOL FRAME

Most of the stool frames sold ready for seating are made of beech. These are particularly suitable for enamelling, and a gay colour that tones or pleasantly contrasts with the seating material used looks very well. Alternatively a spirit stain can be used to obtain an oak finish, the stool being subsequently either wax-polished or varnished. Black ebony stain is another alternative.

Whatever the finish contemplated, the stool frame should first be rubbed over with glass-paper to ensure a perfectly smooth surface. If enamel is used, two coats are required, the first being left at least twenty-four hours to get thoroughly dry, and then lightly glass-papered before applying the

second. Stir the enamel well both before you start and once or twice during the application.

Spirit stain comes in powder form, to be dissolved in methylated spirit in the proportions stated. It is then applied with either a brush or a small sponge, giving the work a second coat if the first does not attain the required depth of colour. Wax polish energetically used will then finish off the frame well. Alternatively, the stained wood can be varnished, in which case when the stain is perfectly dry, two coats of strong size (2 teaspoonfuls of size to a tea-cupful of water) should be applied and then when that is dry, a coat of copal varnish.

An oak frame can, of course, be treated in the ways suggested above, but it always seems a pity to hide the attractive natural grain of the wood. A very pleasant natural finish is obtained by first rubbing well with linseed oil, and then, when the oil has had time to soak in thoroughly, applying polishing wax.

THE STOOL ON PAGE 3

This little stool is a good choice for a beginner to copy, as the pattern is very straightforward, all in one colour, and easily adaptable to frames of different sizes. The stool frame illustrated measures approximately 13" square, height 11"; seagrass or cord is used, and it takes 1 lb.

Whatever size or shape of frame you are working on, the first job is to mark the centre of each top rail, and you must remember subsequently to have an equal number of strands each side of this centre point. Next wind about twenty yards of seating material on to a shuttle or into a convenient bundle for working. To regulate the tension of the first stage in the weaving, lay a rod about $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter across the frame and pass the strands over it; when this is subsequently removed, you will find it has allowed the necessary room for the second stage.

FIRST STAGE. Tie a knot in the end of the material and tack this to the frame inside the left-hand corner nearest to you. Bring the material up inside the front rail and * take it over and round the front rail twice; take it across the underneath of the frame and under and round the back rail twice; bring it back across the top of the frame, over the front rail, back across the underneath and under the back rail and repeat this long wrap twice more. Bring it across the top to the front rail (making the fourth strand right across) and repeat from *. Continue thus, with groups of four strands right across, separated by two strands taken only round the front

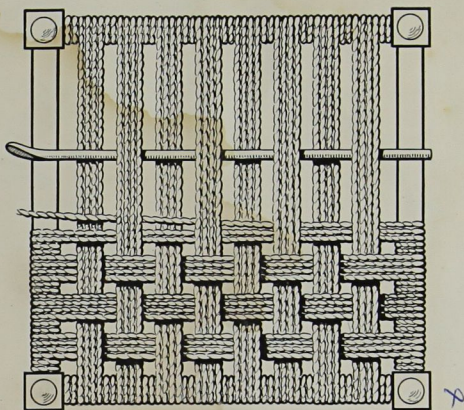


Diagram 1. Pattern for the stool on page 3, showing rod inserted to speed up weaving as described on page 6.

and back rails, ending as you began with two strands taken just round the front and back rails. Remember to check up and see that you have put an equal number of strands each side of your centre point.

SECOND STAGE. Remove the rod laid across the frame, and unwind the material from the shuttle, which is too bulky for weaving. You are now going to work *across* the frame, still in groups of four right across separated by two just round the rails, but weaving each group of four over and under the groups laid the other way; the underside can be woven to match if liked, but as all that is necessary is

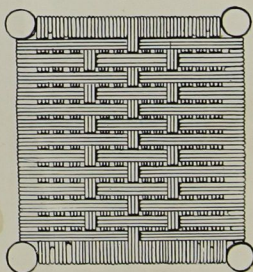


Diagram 2. The simple weave worked underneath the seat.

to catch the strands in position, a simplified weave is permissible, the first set being taken under the centre group, the next one under a group each side, half-way between the centre and the frame (see Diagram 2).

To start your second-stage weave, take the seating material from the back rail, where you ended the first stage, to the right and under the right-hand side rail. Wind twice round this side rail, then take it down to the underneath on the inside of the rail, and across the underneath to the left-hand rail, weaving it under the centre group *en route*. Wind it twice round the left-hand rail, then weave it across to the right, over one group and under the next; take it over the right-hand rail and back across the underneath, passing under the centre group as before. Continue in pattern thus, as seen in the diagram.

The weaving on the top side can be speeded up considerably by the use of your long needle. Alternatively, the use of a fine rod tapered at one end is sometimes preferred, threading the first strand in each group with the fingers, then picking up the alternate groups right across with the rod and leaving it in position to make a passage through which the three remaining strands in the group can quickly be passed (see Diagram 1).

When a join in the seagrass is necessary, it should be made on the underneath of the seat, either with a reef knot, or preferably, by splicing as follows: pull open the twist of the old piece of seagrass about 2" from the end, and thread the new piece through, then thread it back again through the old piece about an inch further along; thread the end of the old piece similarly through the new piece.

When a join in the cord is necessary, it should be made with a reef knot.

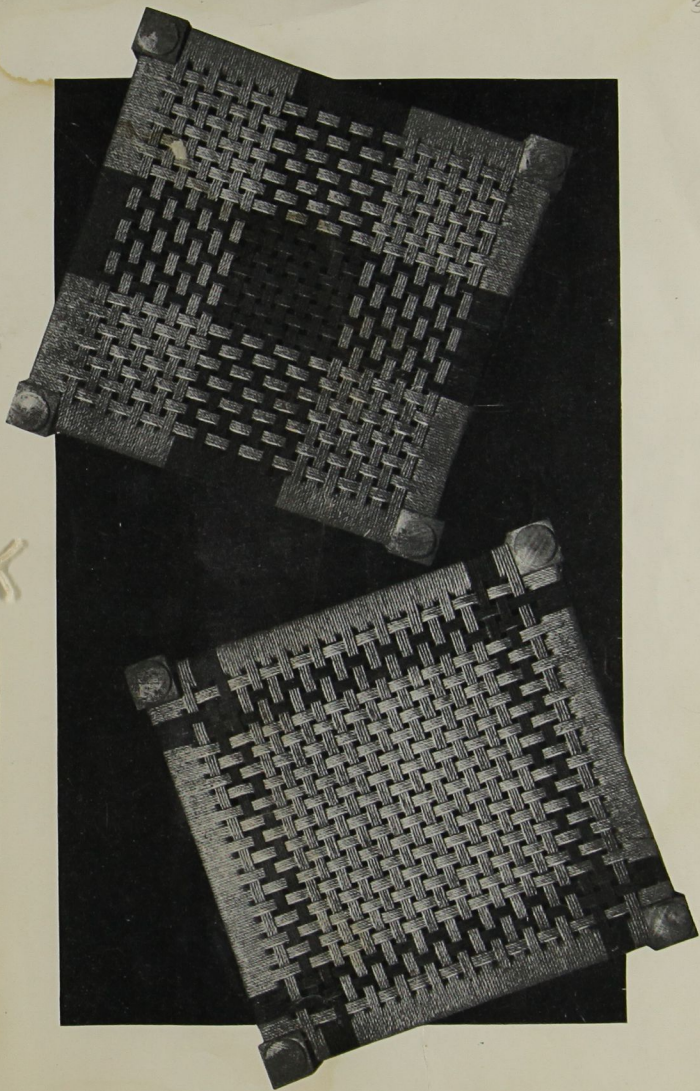
THE SEATS ON PAGE 7

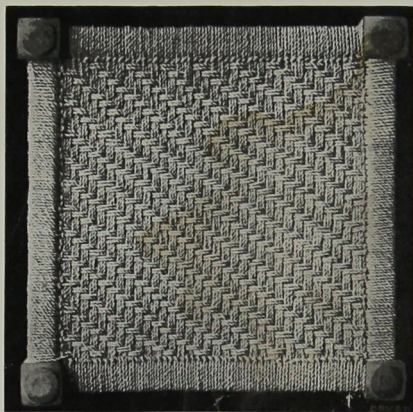
Two suggestions for introducing pattern into the simple weave just described are illustrated here; no diagrams are given, as the photograph is clear enough for every strand to be counted.

The bordered stool has a frame roughly 13" square. It is seated in natural cord (1 lb. required) and contrast ($\frac{1}{4}$ lb.) (brown in the original).

The cross-pattern stool takes $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of natural cord and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in contrast (brown in the original).

Both these stool-seats, as can be seen in the photograph, are in the





Natural cord is used for this seat in diagonal weave.

four-and-two weave previously described and diagrammed; the only difference is that instead of beginning and ending each way with the two strands just round the rail, the weave is begun and ended with the group of four long wraps.

THE SEAT ILLUSTRATED ABOVE

The frame used measures roughly 13" square, and takes about 1 lb. of natural seating cord.

FIRST STAGE. Six yards is a convenient length to handle in this method of working. A rod should be laid across the frame to regulate the tension, and the centre of the rail marked, as described on page 4.

Begin at the left-hand side of the frame and tie the end of the cord to the bottom stave (to be secured when the seat is finished). Wrap once round the seat rail close to the leg, then proceed across the top of the stool to the right-hand rail, keeping the strand quite horizontal, thus leaving a small space between this and the leg so that the cord can be wrapped once

round the seat rail close to the leg to correspond with the first one. This will bring the cord out below the strand. Pass it over this and under the seat rail, forming a small backstitch across the strand. From here proceed over the top of the seat to the left-hand side. Pass the strand round the rail and up *below* the last two strands. Then pass it over the strands in the form of a back-stitch and under the seat rail. Pass it again across the top of the seat to the right-hand side and proceed as before to make a backstitch over the last two strands.

Repeat in this manner from side to side of the stool, making a small backstitch over the strands in pairs (see Diagram 3).

In completing this stage, a wrap should be made round the seat rail on each side, close to the leg, to correspond with the beginning.

SECOND STAGE. This is continued with the cord remaining from the first stage. Pass it once round the frame as in the first stage, then weave over and under groups of six strands alternately across the seat to the right-hand side. Wrap the cord once round the rail close to the leg, make a backstitch over the strand as in the first stage and then weave across the strands in the same position as the first row. Pass the cord over the left-hand rail and up below the two strands and make a backstitch over them. The rows of weaving are arranged in this manner in groups of two throughout the weaving of the seat.

Begin the next group of two rows by passing the cord over three strands and then under and over six strands alternately across the seat. This will divide the groups of the previous rows, one half being used with half of the next group. This principle is followed throughout, thus forming the diagonal pattern shown.

After passing the cord round the right-hand seat rail and making a backstitch over the two strands it is threaded by the side of the previous row to complete the

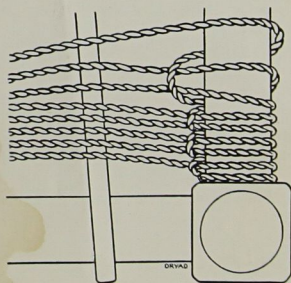


Diagram 3. Method of backstitching.

second group of two rows. The weaving is continued as described.

It will be found necessary to make an extra wrap round the rail from time to time to keep the rows of weaving level, as the weaving strands cannot be pressed down so closely as they could be on the frame in the first stage.

To complete the second stage, make a wrap round each of the rails close to the leg to correspond with the beginning.

To secure the beginning and final ends of cord, knot them round a convenient strand on the underside and cut off the surplus ends.

A STOOL WORKED 'ROUND THE CORNERS'

This stool top (*illustrated on cover*) is worked mainly in natural cord with brown introduced as contrast. It takes 1 lb. of natural and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of brown. It would be equally attractive in seagrass.

Wind a good length of natural cord—about 20 yards—on to a shuttle. Knot the end of the cord and tack to the inside of the back rail close to the corner marked A in Diagram 4. Take the cord over and around the back rail, up inside the frame, to the right and over and round the right-hand rail; across the stool to the rail B—C, over and round this, up inside the frame and over and round the back rail B—A, across the frame to the front rail C—D, over and round this, to the left and over and round the left-hand rail; across the frame to the right-hand rail A—D, over and round this, and back over and round the front rail C—D; across the frame back to your starting point. This is the simple process repeated throughout.

The important thing is to maintain an even tension throughout, pulling the cord pretty tightly; if this makes your fingers sore, wear an old pair of gloves. Try to lay the strands evenly side by side and to see that their crossing-points are kept right-angled, which will ensure that the diagonals are straight (the tendency will be for those diagonals to come "wavy" with untidy results). When the work must be temporarily set aside, secure the end of the cord firmly by winding it several times round the adjacent leg of the stool so that the weaving that has been completed cannot slacken.

To copy the original stool exactly, work six rounds in the natural cord then four in the brown, then five in the natural, then two in the brown